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THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Fifty First Congress—Second Regular Session

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1857.

Mr. VICKERS, from the Committee on Disburses, reported H. R. 102 to provide for the repeal of the test oath act.

Mr. VICKERS, from the Committee on District of Columbia, reported a bill to extend the test oath requirement in the District of Columbia from taxation.

Mr. HAMILTON, from the same committee, reported with amendments bill to incorporate the Metropolitan Presbyterian church, of Washington.

Mr. SUMNER asked to take up the bill so as to prevent the charter of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, which he said ought to have been passed the day the Senate adjourned. H. R. 103 was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. TRUMBULL hoped this bill would not be taken up. There might be no controversy about it in the Senator's mind, but there was controversy among other Senators.

Mr. SUMNER said this society had refused to give equal rights to colored practitioners. The testimony was undoubted, and the bill should pass.

Mr. THURMAN said the bill would be defeated.

Mr. SUMNER. Very well. Every measure for equal rights has been defeated in this Chamber step by step.

Mr. STEWART said the bill should not be taken up at the instance of the Senator from New Hampshire, [Mr. Patterson,] who had opposed the bill in the committee, and who had more information on this subject than any other man except the Senator from Massachusetts. [Mr. Storer.]

Mr. DAVIS stated that Mr. Patterson had informed him that he was opposed to the bill.

Mr. SUMNER said the bill met the concurrence of Mr. Patterson in the shape in which it was introduced, and was then passed.

The colored people felt indignant and sore about the delay in the matter. They were deprived now of the opportunity to obtain a medical education, and the colored people having availed themselves of Massachusetts did not grow up.

The motion of Mr. SUMNER was then rejected—yeas 31, nays 25.

Mr. STEWART moved to take up the bill to afford to all persons the equal protection of the laws.

Mr. TRUMBULL then called up the bill to change the judicial circuits, and Mr. TRUMBULL concluded the explanation commenced by his predecessor.

This bill was further discussed by Mr. DAVIS until the expiration of the morning hour, when it went over.

Mr. SUMNER stated that he had a day or two since entered a motion to reconsider the political division of the country. He had made his motion at the request of the House on the floor, and other persons, and the same was then supposed to have been passed, but it had been supposed that the names which were on the bill had been placed there surreptitiously. He now withdrew that motion.

The funding bill then came up on motion of Mr. HAMILTON, postponed until Monday.

Mr. HAMILTON then called up the bill to incorporate the New England Manufacturing Company, which was amended by the four more corporators, and was then passed.

Also, bill to incorporate the Washington hospital for foundlings. Passed.

Mr. STEWART, who he would give notice to the Committee on Pensions, said if time was afforded he would glad to call up the bill to incorporate the Columbia railway, which he believed would pass without objection, and it should pass, because it will give substantial employment to a large number of laborers who stand ready in need of work.

The Committee on Pensions then reported a number of private pension bills, which were referred to the House.

Mr. HOWE, from the Committee on Claims, then called up the bill providing for the submission to the quartermaster and commissary general of claims of loyal men, and for quartering and subsistence allowances furnished to or taken by the army during the rebellion in the States in the rebellion.

Mr. JOHNSON moved that this bill be referred to the Committee on the Quartermaster General for adjustment.

Mr. HOWE thought this amendment had better not be adopted; it would open up too many questions.

Mr. HOWE then advocated the amendment. He thought all these claims should be admitted and settled in some way, if the royal claimants ought to have paid long ago.

Mr. CONKIN said that this bill would tend to commit Congress to the payment of all sorts of claims, and that it would be a heavy burden on the Government, and the Government without any control to represent it. If the late war was what publicists call a territorial war, a public war, then the bill cannot be vindicated.

After considerable discussion, Mr. JOHNSTON withdrew his amendment.

Mr. TRUMBULL said this bill changed the whole policy of Congress, and he regretted to do so. Therefore, the territory held by the rebels was to be given to the rebels, and the enemy country, and we had refused to pay for anything that had been taken. It was true that there were many cases of hardship in the South, but it was also hard that so many rebels had been allowed to go North, but no one could now call them back. No one had abrogated any of his authority over the South.

The first object of the bill was that is was to give to the rebels their due, and then Georgia would be in. That is true, but then we might be placed in the position again of one House existing and the other absent, and he wanted to avoid that situation. If he did not pass this bill, the people could not be protected, and besides he wanted through this bill to ratify the acts of Congress and to conform to the several acts of Congress.

He also referred at length to the action of the Senate in the case of Messrs. Hill and Miller, which they were first elected. All the members of the rebellion, he said, had been admitted to the Senate since the rebellion. It is true that the Senate had been admitted to the Senate since then; and also the action of Congress in the case of Mr. LEWIS, which he quoted from the different acts of reconstruction and the enabling act to show that Georgia had a perfect right to deprive Georgia of representation, as had been done, before the portion of the bill had been placed there surreptitiously. He now withdrew that motion.

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